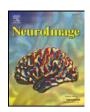
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Mapping the regional influence of genetics on brain structure variability — A Tensor-Based Morphometry study

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ABSTRACT

Genetic and environmental factors influence brain structure and function profoundly. The search for heritable anatomical features and their influencing genes would be accelerated with detailed 3D maps showing the degree to which brain morphometry is genetically determined. As part of an MRI study that will scan 1150 twins, we applied Tensor-Based Morphometry to compute morphometric differences in 23 pairs of identical twins and 23 pairs of same-sex fraternal twins (mean age: 23.8 ± 1.8 SD years). All 92 twins' 3D brain MRI scans were nonlinearly registered to a common space using a Riemannian fluid-based warping approach to compute volumetric differences across subjects. A multi-template method was used to improve volume quantification. Vector fields driving each subject's anatomy onto the common template were analyzed to create maps of local volumetric excesses and deficits relative to the standard template. Using a new structural equation modeling method, we computed the voxelwise proportion of variance in volumes attributable to additive (A) or dominant (D) genetic factors versus shared environmental (C) or unique environmental factors (E). The method was also applied to various anatomical regions of interest (ROIs). As hypothesized, the overall volumes of the brain, basal ganglia, thalamus, and each lobe were under strong genetic control; local white matter volumes were mostly controlled by common environment. After adjusting for individual differences in overall brain scale, genetic influences were still relatively high in the corpus callosum and in early-maturing brain regions such as the occipital lobes, while environmental influences were greater in frontal brain regions that have a more protracted maturational time-course.

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Introduction

3D maps showing the relative contribution of genetic, shared and unique environmental factors to brain structure can facilitate the understanding of the influence of genetics on anatomical variability. Twins have been studied with quantitative genetic models to estimate these different factors. This approach has detected highly heritable (i.e., genetically influenced) brain features, such as the whole brain volume and total gray and white matter volumes (Posthuma et al., 2002).

Identifying genetically influenced features is important, as genes at least partially mediate many psychiatric disorders (Van't Ent et al., 2007). In addition, many cognitive or behavioral measures in normal individuals, such as full-scale IQ, are highly influenced by

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genetics (Gray and Thompson, 2004) and are correlated with measures of brain structure (Reiss et al., 1996; Thompson et al., 2001; Haier et al., 2004). These image-derived measures (such as gray matter volume) are often called intermediate phenotypes when they are associated with an illness and are more amenable to quantitative genetic analysis (see Glahn et al. (2007a) for a review of the endophenotype concept). Using this approach, researchers have identified and confirmed specific genes that are associated with structural brain deficits in schizophrenia patients (Cannon et al., 2002, 2005; Pietiläinen et al., 2008; Narr et al., 2008). Association studies (Sullivan, 2007; Hattersley and McCarthy, 2005) and twin studies using a cross-twin cross-trait design (bivariate genetic models) (Posthuma et al., 2002) have also found specific genes or common sets of genes influencing brain morphology and cognitive performance.

Environmental factors (e.g., cardiovascular health, nutrition, exercise, and education) may also exert protective or harmful effects on the structural integrity of the brain (Raji et al., 2008). In

epidemiological studies and drug trials, accounting for genetic and environmental influences on disease progression (e.g., the ApoE4 risk allele in Alzheimer's disease; Hua et al. (2008b)), may adjust for confounds in the analysis of treatment effects (Jack et al., 2008). Twin studies can reveal whether specific neuroanatomical measures are predominantly influenced by genetics or shared or individual environments (see Peper et al. (2007) for a review), by comparing twin pairs with different degrees of genetic affinity. Identical (or monozygotic, MZ) twins share the same genetic material, whereas fraternal (or dizygotic, DZ) twins share, on average, only half of their genetic polymorphisms (random DNA sequence variations that occur among normal individuals). DZ twins are commonly studied in lieu of other siblings because they are the same age, preventing any age-related confounds. Identical and fraternal twin pairs are compared to ensure, to the greatest possible extent, comparable upbringings and family environments despite varying degrees of genetic resemblance.

The earliest neuroanatomical genetic studies used traditional volumetric measures and region of interest analyses to quantify similarity between MZ and DZ twins. Whole brain and hemispheric volumes were found to be highly heritable (>80% for the whole brain in Pfefferbaum et al. (2000); Sullivan et al. (2001) and >94% for the hemispheric volume in Bartley et al. (1997)). Gray matter and white matter volumes were shown to be 82% and 88% genetically determined (Baaré et al., 2001), respectively. Oppenheim et al. (1989), Pfefferbaum et al. (2000), Scamvougeras et al. (2003), and Hulshoff Pol et al. (2006a) showed that the corpus callosum is mostly controlled by genes, and this was verified at different stages in life. Findings were less consistent for ventricular volume and shape. Reveley et al. (1982), Pfefferbaum et al. (2000) and Styner et al. (2005) showed these structures to be highly heritable, whereas other studies (Baaré et al., 2001; Wright et al., 2002) determined that ventricular volumes are equally influenced by genetics (58%) and environment (42%). Gyral and sulcal patterns were shown to be widely variable in MZ twins (Weinberger et al., 1992; Bartley et al., 1997), suggesting strong environmental influences independent of genetics (Steinmetz et al., 1994).

Computational mapping methods allow the mapping of genetic influences on structure volumes throughout the brain, without requiring *a priori* specification of regions of interest. Among them, voxel-based methods, such as voxel-based morphometry (VBM) (Ashburner and Friston, 2000), have revealed genetically mediated deficits in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (Van't Ent et al., 2007), anxiety disorders (De Geus et al., 2006) and schizophrenia (Hulshoff Pol et al., 2006b). Tensor-Based Morphometry (TBM) is another voxel-based method that has been used successfully to detect morphometric differences associated with aging and Alzheimer's disease (Hua et al., 2008a, 2008b), HIV/AIDS (Brun et al., 2007; Chiang et al., 2006; Leporé et al., 2008a), Williams syndrome (Chiang et al., 2007), Fragile X syndrome (Lee et al., 2007), schizophrenia (Gogtay et al., 2008), and normal brain development (Hua et al., 2009).

As TBM has been extensively used in past studies, we chose this method to analyze our dataset of 23 pairs of MZ and 23 pairs of same-sex DZ twins. TBM combines a warping step and a statistical step to determine local volume changes. Here, we detected local similarities between MZ and between DZ twins and then compared these two groups, to determine the genetic and environmental effects on brain structures. We first hypothesized that brain structure volumes would be more genetically influenced when the data is not adjusted for the overall brain size. We also predicted that the volumes of brain regions that mature earliest in infancy (e.g., occipital lobes) would be the most highly heritable, while environmental effects would be more readily detected in structures that have a more protracted maturational time-course, such as the frontal lobes.

Methods

Overview

In TBM, a population of images is linearly aligned to a common space, then nonrigidly registered (i.e., warped) to a common target brain, chosen either as one of the subjects in the study or as a specially constructed template with the mean geometry for the group of subjects being studied. The local expansion or compression factor applied during the warping process (also called the Jacobian determinant) is a useful index of volumetric differences between each subject and the template. Morphometric differences are assessed by performing a statistical analysis of the volumetric differences at each location in the brain. Here, we performed the registration using a fluid registration algorithm first proposed in Brun et al. (2007) and further developed in Brun et al. (2008). For more precise quantification of volumes, we used a multitemplate scheme described in Leporé et al. (2008c) rather than using one single target brain image. We previously studied whether TBM results depend on the choice of template for normalization (Leporé et al., 2007, 2008c, 2008d). In general, we found that the findings regarding genetic influences are highly consistent, regardless of which template is used for spatial normalization. This is encouraging because the power to resolve morphometric variation in TBM depends on the ability to align each image accurately to the chosen template. In addition, we also found that it makes very little difference to the results if the warping is performed on images that have already been segmented into gray and white matter before spatial normalization (Chou et al., 2008). In Leporé et al. (2007), we built a mean brain template based on averaging a set of deformation fields, such that the mean deformation tensor of the mappings from each individual to the template was minimized in a log-Euclidean metric that measured deviations from the identity tensor. This involved iterative perturbation of the template until the criterion for the mean deformation was optimized. Even though the results with this template were very similar to those achieved with an individual brain as the target, it can be used to rule out the possibility that template selection is a source of bias. In complementary work, we also investigated whether multi-template normalization can provide greater power for TBM studies (Leporé et al., 2008d). In that approach, instead of aligning images to a single brain, we aligned all images to a set of different templates, and the results were averaged (Chou et al., 2008, 2009a, 2009b); this approach was originally termed targetless spatial normalization (Kochunov et al., 2002) and is related to multi-atlas segmentation methods (Heckemann et al., 2006). This multi-template method can increase the statistical power to detect disease effects and also leads to more accurate segmentations, as it reduces the overall impact of errors in individual registrations by fusing information from a large number of registrations among different pairs of brains in the study. We assessed anatomical resemblance within twin pairs by computing intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) maps for the MZ and DZ twins. Falconer's heritability statistics (Falconer, 1989), which estimate the proportion of variance due to genetic differences, were computed at each voxel and displayed as a map (as in Thompson et al. (2001)). Using a more advanced modeling approach (developed in Chiang et al. (2008), Lee et al. (2009), and based on Neale et al. (1999)), we fitted a structural equation model (SEM) to estimate the proportion of local volumetric variability attributable to genetics, shared and unique environmental factors across the whole brain. This variability was estimated both before and after adjusting the data for individual differences in overall brain scale. The same technique was applied for various lobar and subcortical regions of interest (ROIs) traced on the brain template.

Participants

We scanned 23 pairs of monozygotic (MZ) (11 male and 12 female pairs) and 23 pairs of same-sex dizygotic (DZ) twins (10 male and 13

female pairs), recruited as part of a 5-year research project that will eventually evaluate 1150 twins. As explained below, to eliminate bias and improve registration accuracy, we used a multi-template approach in which we aligned all the scans to a set of 5 target brains randomly selected from our database (Leporé et al., 2008d). These scans were performed with the same protocol on 5 healthy subjects that are not included in the genetic analysis (one of them was a monozygotic twin, 2 of them were members of two different dizygotic twin pairs, and 2 did not have twin siblings). These scans were used as templates for the fluid registration step (see Image acquisition and preprocessing), and all the other images were fluidly registered to each of them. The age range for the subjects was 22-25 years old for all the subjects, including the templates (mean age: 23.8 ± 1.8 SD years). Each subject was informed of the goals of the study and signed a consent form. The study was approved by the appropriate Institutional Review and Research Ethics Boards.

Zygosity was established objectively by typing nine independent DNA microsatellite polymorphisms (Polymorphism Information Content>0.7), using standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods and genotyping. These results were cross-checked with blood group (ABO, MNS and Rh), and phenotypic data (hair, skin and eye color), giving an overall probability of correct zygosity assignment of greater than 99.99%. All subjects underwent physical and psychological screening to exclude cases of pathology known to affect brain structure. None of the twin subjects reported a history of significant head injury, neurological or psychiatric illness, substance abuse or dependence, or had a first-degree relative with a psychiatric disorder.

Image acquisition and preprocessing

All MR images were collected using a 4 T Bruker Medspec whole body scanner (Bruker Medical, Ettingen, Germany) at the Center for Magnetic Resonance (University of Queensland, Australia). Three-dimensional T1-weighted images were acquired with a magnetization prepared rapid gradient echo (MP-RAGE) sequence to resolve anatomy at high resolution. Acquisition parameters were: inversion time (TI)/repetition time (TR)/echo time (TE)=1500/2500/3.83 ms; flip angle=15°; slice thickness=0.9 mm with a $256\times256\times256$ acquisition matrix.

Extracerebral (non-brain) tissues were manually deleted from the MRI images using the 3D interactive program, Display (Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Canada). All scans were then aligned to the ICBM53 template using 9-parameter registration (i.e., translational and rotational alignment, allowing scaling in 3 independent directions) found in the *FMRIB*'s Linear Image Registration Toolbox, *FLIRT* (Jenkinson et al., 2002). The ICBM53 template is one of the several standardized adult brain templates, and was generated by nonlinearly registering and averaging 53 high-resolution brain MRI scans in the ICBM standard space to improve the signal-to-noise ratio (Collins et al. (1995); Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Canada).

Fluid registration

Non-rigid warping is usually performed by registering each subject's image, *S*, to a common target image, *T*. Most commonly, this target is an image selected from the data set or a specially constructed Mean Deformation Template (MDT), which has the average geometry (shape) and intensity for the group of subjects studied (Kochunov et al., 2001). Sometimes, a single image is used rather than a group average, because it has sharper features and greater anatomical detail. The choice of an MDT can affect the precision of the registration (Kochunov et al., 2001; Leporé et al., 2008b). To avoid any bias in the registration, we did not use one single target image. Instead we used the multi-template method

described in Leporé et al. (2008d), which is a variant of previously proposed multi-template registration approaches; we registered all the subjects to four different templates. The use of four templates offers a reasonable trade-off between using more templates, which can reduce registration errors but is very time consuming, and preserving computational efficiency, which requires keeping the number of templates reasonably low (see Chou et al. (2008), for an optimization study).

These four templates were fluidly registered to a common 5th template (see Image acquisition and preprocessing for a description of these subjects). These registration vector fields were concatenated with the previous registrations, so that all the obtained vector fields (4 per subject) sit in a common space.

For each subject, Jacobian matrices J were derived from these four vector fields (see Measuring volumetric differences). As all the defined mathematical entities (four vector fields and their four corresponding Jacobian matrices per subject) were computed in a common space, we computed J_{average} from the four Jacobian matrices existing at each voxel. We used the mean defined in Arsigny et al. (2006), which means is defined in a Riemannian space).

The first deformable registration methods were inspired by continuum mechanics. In these elastic or fluid registration approaches, the image is considered to be embedded in a 3D elastic or fluid medium and its deformation at each voxel is governed by mechanical equilibrium equations. A similarity measure is defined between the deforming image and the target image (simple squared-intensity difference, cross-correlation or information-theoretic measures, such as normalized mutual information or Jensen-Rényi divergence (Chiang et al., 2006)) and this similarity term is included as a force term in a partial differential equation (PDE), that regularizes the deformation to avoid any folds or tears in the image (see Christensen et al. (1996); Bro-Nielsen and Gramkow (1996); Gramkow (1996); Leporé et al. (2008b)).

Fluid registration methods have been advocated as they guarantee diffeomorphisms (i.e., smooth, invertible, one-to-one mappings) even when the magnitude of the deformations is large (Christensen et al., 1996), whereas elastic registration methods are typically simpler to implement but only generate diffeomorphic mappings when the deformations are small in magnitude. Our study used a fluid registration algorithm built upon an elastic registration method that was developed in a Riemannian framework by Pennec et al. (2005). This method ensures diffeomorphic maps when matching anatomy across subjects (for details, see Brun et al. (2007, 2008)).

It is worth noting that the twins' images are not registered by aligning one twin's image directly to the other twin's image. Instead they are each individually aligned to a common target image from a randomly selected control subject who is not a member or the twin pair. As such, because the MZ twins vary as much, as a group, as the DZ group (and the general population). The most important factor for the registration is how much they deviate from the target image. As the target image was not the other member of a twin pair used in the analysis, and was an unrelated individual, a zygosity×registration error interaction is unlikely. Consequently, statistical measures assessing resemblance between members of twin pairs can be computed from registration-derived measures without any bias introduced by the registration.

Statistical analysis

Measuring volumetric differences

For each registration, there is a corresponding displacement vector field. At each voxel, each of the registrations (four per subject) gives a 3-component vector (noted u_x , u_y , u_z), that describes the displacement of a particle from the template to the initial image (defined in the

template coordinate system). From those vectors, a Jacobian matrix is computed, defined as

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial (x - u_x)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial (y - u_x)}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial (z - u_x)}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial \left(x - u_y\right)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \left(y - u_y\right)}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial \left(z - u_y\right)}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial (x - u_z)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial (y - u_z)}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial (z - u_z)}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix}$$

Scalar values such as the trace, geodesic anisotropy or the determinant of the matrices may be analyzed (Leporé et al., 2008a). Here, we chose to focus on the analysis of $\det(J)$, the expansion factor that detects local volume changes; this is the most common form of TBM analysis. $\det J(\vec{u}) > 1$ indicates a local volumetric expansion of the image being studied in comparison to the template and $\det J(\vec{u}) < 1$ indicates a local volume shrinkage.

Measuring the genetic influence on brain structures

Intraclass correlation and Falconer's heritability statistic. To measure the resemblance between twin pairs, we first computed the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for both the MZ and the DZ groups, according to the formula:

$$ICC = \sigma_b^2 / \left(\sigma_b^2 + \sigma_w^2 \right). \tag{1}$$

Here, σ_b^2 is the pooled variance between pairs and σ_w^2 is the variance within pairs (Scout and Fleiss, 1979).

Heritability is the proportion of the variation in a measurement that is attributable to genetic factors. We first computed Falconer's heritability statistic, h^2 , defined as twice the difference in correlation between MZ and DZ pairs.

$$h^2 = 2*(r(MZ) - r(DZ))$$

Here, r(MZ) and r(DZ) are the ICC measures for the MZ and DZ groups, respectively. This statistic has been debated in the twin literature as it is based on the equal environments assumption (that MZ and DZ twins have comparable rearing environments; see Thompson et al. (2002) for a discussion). Even so, it is perhaps the most widely-reported index of genetic effects on a trait (e.g., in the twin studies reviewed by Peper et al., 2007), so we report it first before going on to a more sophisticated analysis of genetic effects, based on structural equation models.

We did not want to assume that the data on volumetric differences (here det(J)) were normally distributed, so we computed p-values at each voxel with a voxelwise permutation test, to establish a null distribution for the ICC statistics at each voxel (Nichols and Holmes, 2002). The null hypothesis for the intraclass correlation was ICC = 0 (no correlation). At each permutation, a given subject's scalar map det(1) was randomly assigned to another subject, and a null distribution was computed at each voxel; the *r*-values computed from this randomly-generated distribution were compared to the r-values for the true assignment to give statistical maps of the significance of the ICCs. All voxels from the same subject were permuted in the same way at each randomization, as is required to maintain spatial continuity of the null distribution. The resulting permutation-based (non-parametric) p-value is defined as the quantile of the empirical null distribution where the real data falls. To control the standard error of p, we performed 5000 permutations at each voxel (Edgington, 1995).

To control for multiple spatial comparisons implicit in computing maps of statistics, we computed the omnibus probability, which we call $p_{\text{corrected}}$, using the suprathreshold volume, for maps thresholded at p = 0.05. This value assesses the overall significance of the

observed pattern of effects in the statistical maps (Nichols and Holmes, 2002). These values were computed for both MZ and DZ probability maps.

Structural equation modeling. Eight regions of interest (ROIs) were manually traced on the 5th (common) template, using BrainSuite (Shattuck and Leahy, 2002). These ROIs consisted of the five lobes, the thalamus, the lateral ventricles and the basal ganglia. For each individual, the volume of each ROI was computed using the determinant of the Jacobian matrix, by integrating its value over the appropriate region in the template (see Measuring volumetric differences). This allows the volume of the ROI in each subject to be estimated.

A variance component analysis was performed at each voxel in addition to the analysis of the lobar ROI volumes by fitting structural equation models (SEMs) at each voxel in the images. This method was first implemented and promoted by Neale et al. (1999) with the genetic modeling program, Mx. Here, we used a more computationally efficient version that we recently implemented to permit a voxelwise analysis (Chiang et al., 2008; Lee et al., 2009). To analyze genetic and environmental correlations in twins, structural equation models can compute the relative contributions of additive genetic (A), shared environmental (C) and random environmental (E) components to the variance in the observed local and ROI volume, y. For each twin subject, we can model the value of y as the combination of three latent factors, y = aA + cC + eE; by standard analysis (Neale et al., 1999), the covariance matrix \sum for the vector $(y_1, y_2)^T$, where 1 or 2 stands for the first or second twin in the same pair, can be modeled by:

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} cov(y_1, y_1) & cov(y_1, y_2) \\ cov(y_1, y_2) & cov(y_2, y_2) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 + c^2 + e^2 & \gamma a^2 + c^2 \\ \gamma a^2 + c^2 & a^2 + c^2 + e^2 \end{pmatrix}$$
(2)

where cov(u, v) means covariance between u and v. $\gamma = 1$ for MZ twins, and $\gamma = 1/2$ for DZ twins, as MZ twins share all and DZ twins share on average half of their genetic polymorphisms. Since A, C, and E are unobservable variables, the path coefficients $\Theta = (a, c, e)$ are estimated by comparing the covariance matrix implied by the model, $\Sigma(\Theta)$, with the sample covariance matrix (S) of the observed variables $\Sigma(V)$ and $\Sigma(V)$, using maximum-likelihood fitting (Fornell and Larcker, 1981)

$$F_{\text{LM},\beta} = log|\Sigma(\Theta)| + trace(\Sigma^{-1}(\Theta)S) - log|S| - p$$
 (3)

Here, p=2 is the number of observed variables. Under the null hypothesis that $\mathbf{S} = \sum(\Theta)$, minus twice the logarithm of the likelihood ratio was simplified to $T_{\text{LM},\Theta} = (n_{\text{MZ}} - 1)F_{\text{ML},\Theta,\text{MZ}} + (n_{\text{DZ}} - 1)F_{\text{ML},\Theta,\text{DZ}}$, which follows a χ^2 distribution with p(p+1)t degrees of freedom, where t=3 is the number of free model parameters, and n_{MZ} and n_{DZ} are the number of MZ and DZ twin pairs. Acceptance of the null hypothesis (p>0.05) indicates a good fit for the model. The maximum-likelihood computation was performed to find the model parameters and expected covariance for both MZ and DZ pairs.

If the variance in the data at each voxel is assumed to be normal, χ^2 values could be used to measure the agreement between the observed and expected covariance matrices, as χ^2 is essentially a goodness-of-fit index. To free our fitted SEMs from any assumption that the data were normally distributed, we used a permutation-based method to determine the goodness-of-fit (Lee et al., 2009; Chiang et al., 2008; Bollen and Stein, 1992). $F_{\text{ML},\Theta,\text{DZ}}$ was minimized using an optimization method in the original and in the 5000 permuted samples in which the twin pair's MZ and DZ labels were randomly shuffled. At each permutation, three hypotheses with

different Θ were evaluated, in order to fit the ACE, AE or CE models and the p-values p_{ace} , p_{ce} , and p_{ae} were determined separately by comparing the value of $T_{\text{LM},\Theta}$ for the real distribution to the one of the permuted distribution. For each null hypothesis, the sample data was rescaled since the permutation distribution of χ^2 statistics, $T_{\text{LM},\Theta}$ can

differ from its original distribution. At each voxel and for each region, the three probabilities p-values p_{ace} , p_{ce} and p_{ae} were compared and the A, C and E values resulting from the best model were retained. The best model was defined by the p-value that was greater than the two others and also greater than 0.05 (a p-value<0.05 indicates a

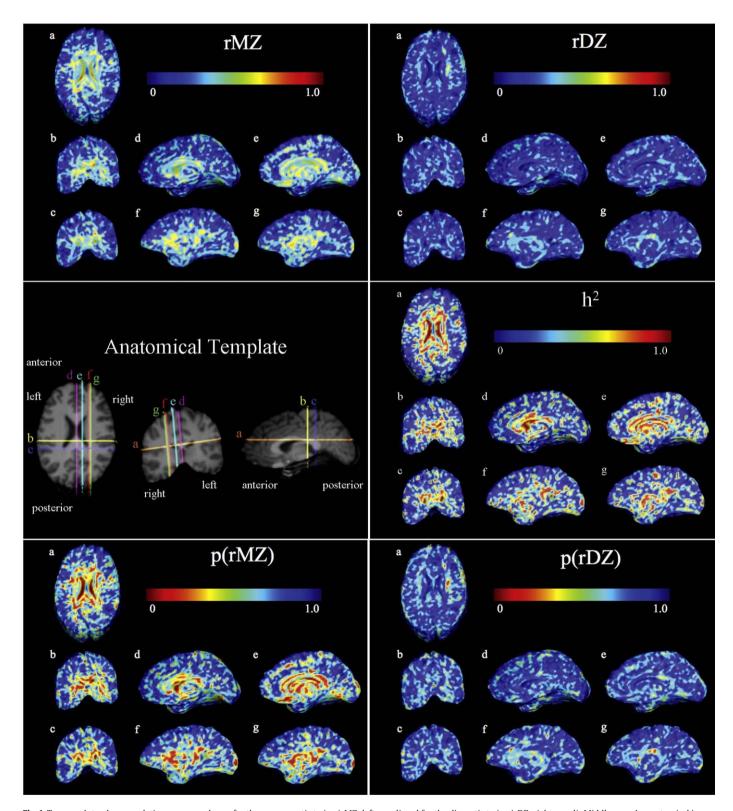


Fig. 1. Top row: Intraclass correlation maps are shown for the monozygotic twins (rMZ; left panel) and for the dizygotic twins (rDZ; right panel). Middle row: An anatomical image (left) shows the sections for which statistics are displayed; maps of Falconer's heritability estimate (h^2) show high heritability in subcortical regions. Bottom row: Maps show the p-values (significance) of the intraclass correlation in monozygotic twins (ICC_{MZ}) and dizygotic twins (ICC_{DZ}).

lack of fit to the data and rejection of the model — note that this is analogous to the convention in standard multivariate regression, where a p-value <0.05 denotes rejection of the null hypothesis, but in our case the genetic model, consisting of the ACE factors, is rejected when p <0.05. The model is therefore considered to fit when the p-value >0.05. Even so, the significance of a specific term in a model (such as the A term) can be assessed by comparing the χ^2 goodness-of-fit values of the two competing models also has a χ^2 distribution, and its significance can be reported in the conventional way, with p <0.05 denoting that the added term provides a better overall fit to the data).

A similar path analysis and structural equation model can be used to estimate the A, D and E parameters (relative contributions of additive genetic factors, genetic dominance effects and random environmental components, respectively on the observed volumes). The ADE model differentiates two genetic effects: the sum of all the effects of individual genetic loci (A) and the result of any interactions between alleles at the same genetic locus (D) (Maes, 2005). When the genetic dominance term fits, the DZ correlation tends to be less than half of the MZ correlation (here we take $\gamma = 1/4$ to fit D and $\gamma = 1/2$ to fit A).

Estimating phenotypic variance in the population

To examine the variability of the measured phenotypes (Jacobian determinants, det(J), at each voxel, and ROIs volumes), we computed the mean and variance of each volumetric measure across the sample. To avoid any bias in estimating variance, we chose a group composed of one subject per pair in the MZ and the DZ groups, taken randomly.

Results

Intraclass correlations and Falconer's heritability estimates

Fig. 1 shows the intraclass correlation computed for local volumes in both identical and fraternal twins (top left: $r_{\rm MZ}$ and top right: $r_{\rm DZ}$). Red colors indicate a high correlation (r close to 1), whereas blue colors indicate no detectable correlation (r=0). The significance of the intraclass correlations was assessed by computing p-values corrected for multiple comparisons (bottom left: $p_{\rm ICC(MZ)}$, $p_{\rm corrected}=0.034$; bottom right: $p_{\rm ICC(DZ)}$, $p_{\rm corrected}=0.025$). A comparison of these two intraclass correlations is given by the maps of Falconer's heritability statistics (h^2 , middle right panel). Red colors

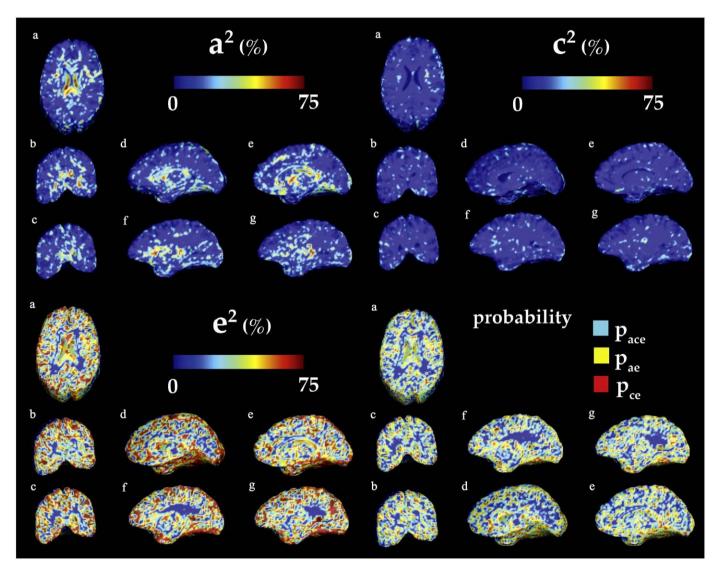


Fig. 2. Variance component maps for additive genetic (a^2 – top left), common (c^2 – top right), and unique environmental (e^2 – bottom left) factors for the unscaled data. Bottom right: Color-coded maps representing the model choice at each voxel – light blue (yellow and red, respectively) indicates that the best fitting model is obtained with *ACE* (*AE* and *CE*, respectively). The corresponding anatomical sections (a–g) are shown in Fig. 1 – middle left.

indicate greater heritability. The left panel in the middle row shows the common anatomical template and the colored lines indicate the different sections exhibited in the color maps. Three features are evident: first, for most subcortical regions, MZ twin volumes are correlated between members of the pair at around r = 0.5, with values much closer to zero for DZ twins. Second, a correction for multiple comparisons reveals that the overall pattern of correlations in the DZ twins is significantly greater than zero; strictly speaking, a higher proportion of the brain has correlations exceeding the p = 0.05 threshold than would be expected by chance if the null hypothesis of no correlation were true. Third, the high values of heritability (right panel in the middle row), with values over 0.5 for the majority of the subcortical regions, are based on twice the difference in the intraclass correlations for the MZ and DZ twins. These give an estimate of the proportion of the variance in those regions that is genetically mediated. As is also implied by the structural equation models below, the heritability maps suggest that the anatomy of the MZ twins resembles each other to a greater degree than the anatomy of the DZ twins in ventricular, callosal,

limbic (cingulate gyrus), occipital and anterior temporal regions. While DZ twins resemble each other to a greater degree than randomly chosen individuals of the same age and sex.

Genetic and environmental influences on brain structure variability

The influence of additive genetic (A), as well as shared (C) and unique (E) environmental factors on brain structure volumes are mapped in Figs. 2 and 3 for the unscaled and scaled data, respectively. The corresponding values are also reported for eight ROIs in Table 1 (unscaled data) and Table 2 (scaled data).

Figs. 2 and 3 display voxelwise maps of the ACE variance components. In each map, the proportion of the overall variance is expressed on a scale of 0 (dark blue) to 75% (red). The variance components, a^2 , c^2 , e^2 are proportions, and vary from 0 to 1, but their contribution to the overall variance is often stated as a percentage. In the bottom left panel, color-coded maps show the model that provided the best fit. Light blue corresponds to the *ACE* model, yellow to the *AE* model and red to the *CE* model.

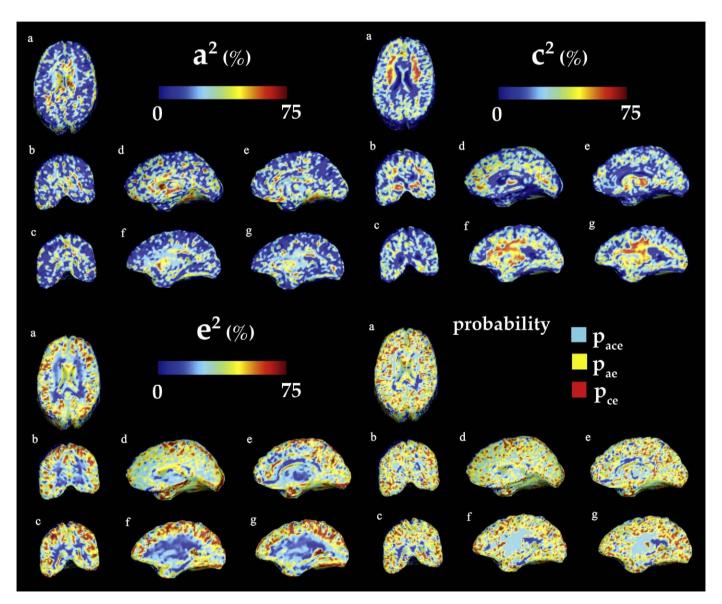


Fig. 3. Variance component maps for additive genetic (a^2 – top left), common (c^2 – top right), and unique environmental (e^2 – bottom left) factors for the scaled data. Bottom right: Color-coded maps representing the model choice at each voxel – light blue (yellow and red, respectively) indicates that the best fitting model fit is obtained with *ACE* (*AE* and *CE*, respectively). The corresponding anatomical sections (a–g) are shown in Fig. 1 – middle left.

Table 1Measures of the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) for the MZ and DZ groups, Falconer's heritability estimate (h^2), the additive genetic (a^2), dominant genetic (a^2), shared (c^2) and unique environmental (e^2) variance components, their confidence interval, the probability p (computed from the structural equation models; these exceed 0.05 when the model fits) and the model that provided the best fit when explaining variance in the volumes of these brain regions across subjects for the unscaled data.

Regions	WB	Fr	Par	Temp	Occ	Lmbc	Vent	BG	Th
ICC _{MZ}	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.85	0.71	0.86	0.84
ICC _{DZ}	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.75	0.77	0	0.71	0.76
h^2	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.29	0.24	0.17	1.42	0.30	0.17
a^{2} (%)	34.82	35.28	33.18	36.58	33.26	27.81	0 (0-49.64)	39.58	24.08
	(0.47-65.66)	(0.32-54.18)	(3.07-55.81)	(31.89-96.97)	(30.69-91.19)	(1.85-36.86)		(0.22-42.57)	(0.05-68.59)
c^2/d^2 (%)	55.03	54.44	56.57	54.98	56.71	62.03	63.51	49.43	63.67
	(1.52-56.59)	(28.16-73.67)	(0-57.26)	(0.15-55.90)	(4.9-56.93)	(30.17-78.73)	(0.79-63.91)	(17.02-95.13)	(9.43 - 98.97)
e ² (%)	10.14	10.28	10.25	8.44	10.03	10.15	36.49	10.99	12.26
	(7.87-53.03)	(7.51-41.24)	(5.65-85.93)	(1.90-38.22)	(3.23-40.38)	(10.13-51.53)	(0.80-63.91)	(0.35-70.10)	(0.26-41.98)
Probability	0.74	0.74	0.77	0.58	0.56	0.41	0.09	0.91	0.74
Best fitting model	ACE	ACE	ACE	ACE	ACE	ACE	ADE	ACE	ACE

Falconer's heritability estimate is usually considered to be 1 if 2(rMZ-rDZ) exceeds 1. As noted in the main text, the a^2 coefficient is a more reliable estimate of heritability than Falconer's estimate.

ROIs: WB — Whole brain; Fr — Frontal lobes; Par — Parietal lobes; Temp — Temporal lobes; Occ — Occipital lobes; Lmbc — Limbic lobes; Vent — Ventricles; BG — Basal Ganglia; Th — Thalamus.

If we assume that all the regions of the brain have a partially shared genetic influence related to overall scale of the brain, then after adjusting for individual differences in brain scale across subjects, a lesser residual effect of genetic factors should remain (this is based on the fact that overall brain volume is heritable). Therefore, we hypothesized that all brain regions would show a higher heritability prior to the adjustment and we also expected the proportion of variance due to environmental factors to be greater in the unscaled data.

Fig. 3 shows that the influence of genetic factors is detectable throughout the brain in the unscaled data (top left): from 20% of the genetic variance in the white matter to 75% in subcortical structures such as the corpus callosum and the ventricles, 20–40% in the basal ganglia and the thalamus and 50% in the occipital lobes (d). The effects of the shared environment, as shown by the c^2 values (Fig. 2, top right panel), are more prominent than their genetic counterparts in the frontal lobes and in the white matter, such as the internal capsule, the uncinate fasciculus and the superior longitudinal fasciculus. The unique environment variance (e^2) maps demonstrate high variance in the gray matter. As this term accounts for the individual environmental influence and measurement errors from all sources, it is not possible to distinguish unique environmental effects from sources of measurement errors that are uncorrelated between the twins. These maps should therefore be interpreted cautiously.

As hypothesized, the scaled maps showed less genetic effects throughout the brain (see Fig. 3 — top right). While scaling the data depleted the effects of the common environment on brain structure (only the white matter partly exhibits c^2 values equal to 20–30%), the genetic influence is still very strong in the limbic lobe, and the subcortical structures, the ventricles in particular (60%). Effects are

also noticeable in the occipital lobes (20-30% - top left - d). The comparison of the top right panels in Figs. 2 and 3 shows that overall, genetic influences (a^2) are relatively high in the subcortical areas, as well as in the occipital areas, which are the earliest to mature in infancy.

To summarize the effect of the three factors on global structure volumes, ICC, h^2 and proportion of variance factors were computed for the five lobes, the ventricles, the thalamus, the basal ganglia and the whole brain (Tables 1 and 2). In the unscaled data, the proportion of genetic, shared and unique environmental variance was approximately the same for all the lobes (see Table 1), with around 30–40% of the variance being attributable to genetic differences in the cohort. The shared environment also accounted for around half of the variance in these volumes, with the rest of the differences being attributable either to unique environment or measurement errors. Volumes for the basal ganglia and the thalamus were shown to be influenced by genetic factors (A), as well as shared (C) and unique (E) environmental factors ($a^2 = 40\%$, and $c^2 = 50\%$, for the basal ganglia – $a^2 = 25\%$ and $c^2 = 63\%$ for the thalamus). Between 60% and 70% of the variance in ventricular volumes was attributable to dominant genetic factors (the ADE model resulted in a better fit than the ACE model, which may be related to the undetectable DZ correlation (ICC = 0) and to the increased difference between MZ and DZ correlations (>1/2). This value was still high (50% to 70%) in the scaled data (Table 2), where the ADE model was also proved to be the best fit. The strong influence of genetics was also seen in the thalamus and basal ganglia (where $a^2 = 58\%$ and $d^2 = 57\%$, respectively). Even so, the genetic influence on the whole brain volume was considerably smaller after scaling, whereas the effect of the common environment decreased

Table 2 Measures of the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) for the MZ and DZ groups, Falconer's heritability estimate (h^2), the additive genetic (a^2), dominant genetic (a^2), shared (c^2) and unique environmental (e^2) variance components, their confidence interval, the probability p (computed from the structural equation models; these exceed 0.05 when the model fits) and the model that provided the best fit when explaining variance in the volumes of these brain regions across subjects for the scaled data.

Regions	WB	Fr	Par	Temp	Occ	Lmbc	Vent	BG	Th
ICC _{MZ}	0.21	0.38	0.09	0.12	0.55	0.57	0.59	0.49	0.61
ICC _{DZ}	0.33	0.46	0.26	0.21	0.26	0.12	0	0.35	0
h^2	0	0	0	0	0.58	0.91	1.17	0.27	1.21
a ² (%)	0	0	-	14.91	46.84	17.27	0	56.97	0
	(0-25.23)	(0-34.76)	-	(0-38.41)	(1.46-65.11)	(0.02-79.76)	(0-34.92)	(0-99.93)	(0-68.10)
c^2/d^2 (%)	27.13	42.29	-	0	7.01	34.54	53.12	0	58.32
	(3.27-61.47)	(0-45.53)	-	0	(5.72-54.36)	(0.01-41.67)	(9.40-53.62)	0	(1.66-58.67)
e ² (%)	73.87	57.05	_	85.08	46.13	48.18	46.88	43.03	41.68
	(24.43-89.48)	(19.70-83.03)	-	(61.58-100)	(28.53-72.13)	(28.75-73.95)	(26.14-73.95)	(0-99.99)	(0-79.60)
Probability	0.26	0.54	_	0.55	0.38	0.06	0.23	0.61	0.25
Best fitting model	ACE	ACE	No fit	AE	ADE	ADE	ADE	AE	ADE

Falconer's heritability estimate is usually considered to be 1 if 2(rMZ-rDZ) exceeds 1. As noted in the main text, the a^2 coefficient is a more reliable estimate of heritability than Falconer's estimate.

ROIs: WB — Whole brain; Fr — Frontal lobes; Par — Parietal lobes; Temp — Temporal lobes; Occ — Occipital lobes; Lmbc — Limbic lobes; Vent — Ventricles; BG — Basal Ganglia; Th — Thalamus

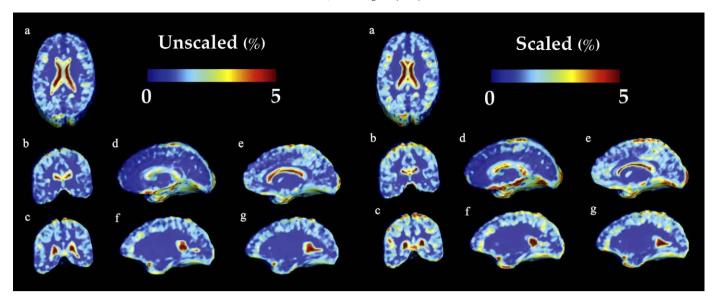


Fig. 4. Variance of the Jacobian across the population for the unscaled (left) and the scaled data (right) displayed as the percentage of the mean at each voxel. Here, blue indicates a small variance in the trait (0%), whereas red indicates a higher variance (5%). It is worth noting that values in the unscaled white matter are higher than values in the scaled white matter except for the subcortical regions (1% versus 0.3%).

from 10%. This trend was found for all lobar structures except for the occipital lobes ($a_{\text{scaled}}^2 = 47\%$) and the temporal lobes ($a_{\text{scaled}}^2 = 15\%$).

In the scaled and unscaled data, the A, C, E or A, D, E terms fitted in all cases except for the parietal lobes (where the best p-value = 0.01 was found for the ACE model in the scaled data, and indicates a lack of fit). The full ACE model gave the best fit for all the structures except for the lateral ventricles (where p_{ace} = 0.048 and p_{ade} = 0.091) in the unscaled data. In comparison, the best fit with ACE was found in the scaled whole brain and frontal lobes only (p = 0.26 and p = 0.54, respectively). The ADE model was the best fit for the most genetically influenced structures, such as the occipital lobes, the ventricles, and the thalamus, whereas the AE model performed better in the basal ganglia (p_{ace} = 0.44, p_{ade} = 0.40 and p_{ae} = 0.61) and in the temporal lobes (p_{ace} = 0.41, p_{ade} = 0.36 and p_{ae} = 0.55).

Overall, when the scaling effect was removed, the explanatory value of the genetic term (A) decreased in all lobar regions. This is in line with expectation, because the variance in substructure volumes obeys an approximate power law relative to the overall size of the brain (Thompson et al., 2003); in other words, the logarithms of the substructure volumes and overall brain volumes are tightly correlated in normal populations. Because of this dependency, some of the variance in substructure volumes is correlated with variations in overall brain volume, which is also highly heritable (see Table 1 and Introduction). If some of the same genes that influence substructure volumes also influence the overall brain volume (which is likely), then adjusting for overall brain volume is likely to decrease the remaining genetic proportion of variation in substructure volumes. However, if different genes mediate overall brain volume and substructure volumes, adjusting for overall brain volume may (at least in theory) increase the proportion of the remaining variation in substructure volumes that is genetically mediated. In our data, even after adjusting for brain volume (see Fig. 2), the adjusted occipital, limbic lobar volumes were still genetically influenced. Temporal lobe volumes were also controlled by genetics before and after adjustment, but to a lesser extent, which may be explained by a high c^2 value in the inferior temporal lobes, and a high a^2 value in the anterior temporal area, that persisted after scaling (see Fig. 2 – top right and left – f and g and Fig. 3 - top left - f and g). The environmental (C) component remained high in frontal regions. This effect was not seen for subcortical structures, where the genetic term was still dominant in the lateral ventricles, basal ganglia and thalamus after adjusting for brain scale.

Phenotypic variability in the population

Fig. 4 shows the voxelwise variance of the phenotype in our sample. Whether the brains are scaled or unscaled, variance remains relatively high in the subcortical regions (around 5%), where the genetic influence is the highest (see the two previous paragraphs). Second, although not so clearly evident, values measured in the lobar white matter (Figs. 4 f and g) show a difference in variance between the unscaled and the scaled data (1% and 0.3%, respectively). This effect is also shown in Table 3, where a similar measurement is presented for the ROIs. While the variance is higher in the unscaled data (8% versus 0.6% for the scaled data) for the whole brain volume, frontal, parietal, temporal lobar and basal ganglia volumes, the scaling has little influence on the other structures that are the most genetically determined.

Discussion

Findings

In this study, we combined Tensor-Based Morphometry, a method that analyzes morphological brain differences, with models traditionally used in genetic studies, including structural equation models, which were computed using a new and efficient method (Chiang et al., 2008; Lee et al., 2009). The study had three main findings. First, we computed correlation maps to visualize the level of anatomical similarity for identical and fraternal twin groups, from which we derived a commonly used measure of heritability. This voxelwise method indicated a genetically mediated component of variance in subcortical regions ($\approx 50\%$). The maps revealed the

Table 3Standard deviation of the ROI volumes across the population reported as a percentage of the mean of the whole region.

Regions	WB	Fr	Par	Temp	Occ	Lmbc	Vent	BG	Th
Unscaled	8.99	8.94	8.93	8.71	8.81	8.69	17.31	8.93	8.91
Scaled	0.41	0.40	0.67	0.71	10.37	17.11	11.84	0.77	11.41

ROIs: WB — Whole brain; Fr — Frontal lobes; Par — Parietal lobes; Temp — Temporal lobes; Occ — Occipital lobes; Lmbc — Limbic lobes; Vent — Ventricles; BG — Basal Ganglia: Th — Thalamus.

expected pattern of genetic influence for a heritable trait, in which identical twins resembled each other the most, and fraternal twins less so. The resemblance for each type of twin was significant overall and was statistically confirmed to be greater than that likely to be observed by chance in random pairings of individuals of the same age and sex.

Subcortical regions, in particular the lateral ventricles and corpus callosum, and the occipital lobes that mature the earliest in infancy, showed strong evidence of hereditary influences even after adjustment for whole brain scale. Our voxel-based maps of the heritability indicated genetically influenced regions previously implicated in independent studies by Hulshoff Pol et al. (2006a), such as limbic regions (such as the cingulate gyrus), anterior temporal and occipital lobe regions. In Hulshoff Pol et al. (2006a), the authors used VBM and structural equation models. The additive genetic components of variance, a^2 , were slightly higher in their study than the ones in our study for similar regions (e.g., \approx 80% versus \approx 40% for unscaled data). This may be attributable to a larger e^2 component in our study (which contains any measurement errors). Differences may be due to differences in the definitions of regions of interest. In addition, in sample sizes around 100 subjects (as were used in this study and the one by Hulshoff Pol et al. (2006a)), there is a certain margin of error in estimating a^2 , and these confidence intervals have been reported to allow comparisons with other reports and with future studies.

Also, as hypothesized, when unscaled data was assessed (i.e., before accounting for differences in overall brain scale), the proportion of genetic variance was higher for all the unscaled lobar volumes compared to the unscaled volumes. This is reasonable given that brain volume is itself heritable and is correlated with regional volumes (Giedd et al., 2007). This finding is also supported by prior twin studies (Pfefferbaum et al., 2000; Bartley et al., 1997).

Third, our ACE variance component models largely confirmed the results obtained with the statistical maps, namely that genetic influences were relatively strong subcortically. Very similar results were found for the voxelwise maps as for the ROIs. Even so, voxelwise maps, derived from the SEMs, may be used to define a more detailed pattern for the different influences. For example, the superior/ anterior regions of the temporal lobes were found to be under genetic control, whereas their inferior parts were more influenced by common environment, at least in the unscaled data. We also observed strong shared environmental effects on all the unscaled structure volumes except the ventricles, which was not observed in other studies. This finding may be due to the mean age and small variance of the sample population (young adults). As the brain changes throughout life, one might propose that the common environmental effects are at their strongest immediately after the teenage years (the age range studied here) and that this effect may decrease with age, as the twin subjects no longer live in the same environment. A similar explanation has been proposed in prior studies of heritability of IQ, in which effects of the childhood rearing environment were detected early in life but dissipated later in life when the twin subjects lived apart. After scaling effects were removed, subcortical structures were generally the most highly genetically influenced, while frontal lobe volumes were mostly influenced by shared and unique environment. We were unable to detect any environmental effect on lateral ventricular volume. Reveley et al. (1982), Pfefferbaum et al. (2000) and Styner et al. (2005) showed that ventricular volume is genetically influenced, and others (Baaré et al., 2001; Wright et al., 2002) found that ventricular volumes are equally influenced by genetics (58%) and environment (42%). Inspection of our data revealed that the ventricular volume correlation for DZ twins was relatively low. Choosing the ADE model rather than the ACE helped to explain these findings: the genetics effect on ventricles before and after scaling was shown to be dominant more than additive, leading to a correlation in MZ that is more than double the correlation in DZ twins.

Besides, generally speaking the more genetically influenced traits were also the more variable phenotypes in the sample.

Genetics and the developmental sequence

The extent to which different brain structures are genetically influenced is likely to vary spatially across the brain. One plausible developmental hypothesis, based on the developmental sequence during childhood, is that the earliest-maturing brain regions have structural volumes that are more genetically influenced. Environmental influences may be greater for the later-developing brain regions (e.g., the frontal lobes). As we found in our cortical mapping study of brain development from childhood to early adulthood, (Gogtay et al., 2004), brain regions that mature first in childhood tend to support more basic cognitive processes, such as movement (motor and primary sensory cortices), taste (insula), vision (occipital lobes), and hearing (anterior temporal lobes). The regions with the most protracted maturational time-course include the prefrontal lobes (involved in complex reasoning), temporal lobes and hippocampus (Gogtay et al., 2004). White matter continues to mature throughout life (Bartzokis et al., 2008), but most of the white matter myelination that affects regional brain volumes is completed by adolescence, with heavy myelination of the corticospinal tracts and occipital lobes occurring in early infancy (Aubert-Broche et al., 2008). This developmental sequence may relate to the profile of genetic influences on brain structure; our initial data are consistent with the hypothesis that structures subserving basic processes may be under stronger genetic control than those that mature over a more extended period.

TBM: advantages and limitations

Prior research has found that key measures of cognitive performance, such as IQ, are highly heritable and correlate with frontal lobe gray and white matter volumes (Peper et al., 2007). Here we found moderate genetic influences on frontal lobe volumes, in the range 30-40% before scaling; values that are comparable with, but not quite as high as prior studies. The method used to measure structures is likely to affect the values for the genetic variance components, because all methods are likely to vary in their measurement error variance, which is part of the e^2 component of variance, and all variance components are by definition proportions of the overall variance and sum to one. For more specific analysis of cortical gray matter variable specialized processing methods may be used to analyze the cortical surface (see Thompson et al. (2004) for a review), as in our prior genetic studies (Thompson et al., 2001) and in the cortical surface modeling studies by Schmitt et al. (2008). Although these analyses are more time consuming to perform, a precise estimate of cortical thickness or gray matter density (and other features such as cortical curvature and complexity) can be derived for each subject. In particular, registration methods developed for more precise cortical pattern matching (e.g., Thompson et al. (2004)) can be used to integrate and compare data from subjects whose gyral patterns are different, by fluidly transforming entire networks of gyral landmarks into correspondence. Registration error is reduced, and measurement precision is increased. In general, one would expect the genetic and common environmental components to be higher, as a proportion of the overall variance for methods that further reduce the measurement error variance, even if these methods are more labor-intensive to perform. As such, heritability estimates may be slightly lower for high-throughput voxel-based methods such as TBM or VBM (Hulshoff Pol et al., 2006a) than for methods that explicitly model and register cortical anatomy (Thompson et al., 2001; Schmitt et al., 2008). As twin studies begin to routinely assess hundreds or even thousands of subjects, there will ultimately be a trade-off between methods that are most efficient to use on large cohorts versus those that offer the greatest power to detect gene effects per subject analyzed, given the resources available. A related problem pertains to the subcortical structures as registration accuracy could potentially be influenced by the degree of spatial regularization involved in the warping approach. A highly regularized method, in which the deformation fields are extremely smooth, may increase the genetic proportion of variance (a^2) locally if a^2 was high for global measures. This issue can be further investigated in the future by studying how the genetic effects on brain structures depend on the smoothness and accuracy of the registration vector fields. In the future, we plan to further examine genetic influences on cortical gray matter differences using surface-based cortical thickness maps (Thompson et al., 2004), which will take advantage of the cortical features and explicit surface models to allow higher order spatial normalization and matching of cortical anatomy.

A second more conceptual issue relates to the disentanglement of genetic effects on overall brain volume from regional heritability estimates. In imaging studies designed to identify genes that regulate overall brain volume, there may be no need to adjust the heritability maps for global volume effects, as potentially important genetic effects would be discounted. In the future, however, there will be a growing interest in genes that regulate specific functional systems and not others, or distributed cortical networks that operate as a functional unit. A first step towards understanding regionally-specific genetic influences has been pioneered by Wright et al. (2002) and Schmitt et al. (2007), who proposed a multivariate spatial decomposition of the genetic variance in a dataset. These methods hold promise for identifying genetic effects that affect the development of an entire system, or overlapping sets of genes involved in the maturation of different brain regions. These methods often require very large cohorts to rigorously establish these subtle, second-order effects on heritability. These include the examination of differential heritability between different measures or different regions and the detection of common versus specific genetic influences on different measures, which will be a key target of future studies.

Third, there may be age effects on heritability, which means that any study of a specific cohort must be interpreted as applying to the age range specifically examined (here, early adulthood). In Lenroot et al. (2007), who studied children, the authors argued that there is an age-related difference in the heritability of cortical thickness. The primary sensory and motor cortices were found to be predominantly determined by genes in childhood, while later-developing regions, such as the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and the temporal lobes may experience greater genetic influence later in life.

Lenroot et al. (2009) suggested that brain regions related to higher cognitive functions may have morphometric variance that is more heritable in adolescence than childhood, as that is when they are most rapidly developing. Gene-environment interaction effects may also complicate and further enhance this increase in heritability during the most rapid period of development. As such, longitudinal studies will be needed on large datasets (Wright et al., 2001) to account for age effects, or even temporary effects on heritability that may occur during an active growth spurt and may not persist later when growth rates are lower and population variance is lower (Giedd et al., 2007).

An additional fruitful direction involves the genetics of diffusion tensor imaging (DTI). Hulshoff Pol et al. (2006a) showed that the cross-sectional area and fiber integrity (fractional anisotropy) of the corpus callosum was mostly determined by genes, a finding that has been verified at different ages across the human lifespan. More recent bivariate genetic modeling studies using high-angular resolution diffusion imaging (HARDI) in twins suggest that DTI-derived measures of fiber architecture and *IQ* may be both highly heritable and influenced by overlapping sets of genes (Chiang et al., 2008; Lee et al., 2009). Future studies combining DTI, functional, and cognitive measurements with neuroanatomy (Glahn et al., 2007b) are needed to better establish links between genetics, functional MRI signals and cognition (see Blokland et al. (2008) and De Zubicaray et al. (2008)).

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